

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 01919 161615Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-12 EB-08 TRSE-00 COME-00 /104 W
-----008567 162145Z /65

R 161501Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6940
INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY QUITO
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION USNATO

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, MX, XM
SUBJECT: HONECKER'S VISIT TO LATIN AMERICA

REFS: (A) 77 BERLIN 9319; (B) 77 QUITO 8647 (NOTAL)

1. WE CONTINUE TO HEAR SPECULATION AMONG THE
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DIPLOMATIC CORPS, PARTICULARLY FROM LATIN AMERICAN
MISSIONS, THAT SED PARTY CHIEF HONECKER PLANS TO VISIT
LATIN AMERICA THIS YEAR. CUBA, PERU AND GUYANA ARE THE
FAVORITES IN THE SPECULATION RACE. WE HAVE NOTICED
A RECENT UPSURGE OF MEDIA TREATMENT OF LATIN
AMERICAN ISSUES, PARTICULARLY FEATURE ARTICLES IN THE
PRESS. THIS IS SOMETIMES A PRELUDE TO THE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN IMPENDING VISIT. THERE SEEMS TO BE SPECIAL ATTENTION PAID TO MEXICO. IN ADDITION, THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL RECENT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE GDR AND MEXICO. THE MIXED GDR-MEXICAN COMMISSION MET FOR THE FIRST TIME IN EARLY MARCH IN EAST BERLIN AND REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED THE DEVELOPMENT OF ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GDR AND MEXICO AND WAYS TO IMPROVE COOPERATION. THE HEAD OF THE MEXICAN DELEGATION, DR. JUAN DE OLLQUI, MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER TO CONSIDER DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. ALSO PARTICIPATING IN THESE TALKS WERE THE MEXICAN VICE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN TRADE, HECTOR HERNANDEZ, AND VICE MINISTER FOR AGRARIAN REFORM, MANUEL GARZA. IN EARLY MARCH, HONECKER SENT A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT PORTILLO.

2. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THESE RECENT CONTACTS IS - IF ANY. MEXICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE GDR, CORONA, TOLD AMBASSADOR BOLEN THAT THERE WERE NO PLANS FOR HONECKER TO VISIT MEXICO. WE THINK IT POSSIBLE THAT THERE MAY BE SOME TRUTH TO THE SPECULATION REGARDING A TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA, EVEN IF ONLY TO CUBA. BOLEN

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Message Attributes

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